(b) On the recommendations of the Medical Council of India permission of the Central Government was granted on 7.2.97 for establish of new medical college at Karaikal, Pondicherry in private sector.

(c) The infrastructure facilities for admission of 4th batch of students in the above said college were found inadequate by the Medical Council of India and on their recommendations permission for admission of 4th batch of students during 1999-2000 has not so far been renewed.

Dental Diseases

206. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of HEATLH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dental diseases are on increase in our country;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are norms regulating efficacy of tooth-pastes manufactured in India by MNCs; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to lay down the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in the incidence of dental diseases could be attributed to urbanisation, industrialisation and other developmental activities, resulting from modernisation and consequential changes in dietary habits, increaseded in-take of sticky or carbohydrate rich refind food-stuff and increased consumption of tobacco and tobacco related products. Ignorance about the importance of oral health and hygiene is another important factor.

(c) Norms have been laid down for manufacture of toothpastes which can be manufactured only under a license from the Food and Drug Administration under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945 and the rules framed thereunder.

(d) does not arise.